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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Varela DATE TYPED 1/24/2005 HB 97

SHORT TITLE Family Preservation Act SB _____

ANALYST Dunbar

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	See Narrative				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 NM Public Education Department (NMPED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 97 amends the *Family Preservation Act* renaming it as the *Family Support Act*. The bill outlines the state’s policy of support for the family and emphasizes the responsibilities of parents and the state in the healthy development of children and the family as an institution. CYFD would be responsible for the implementation and coordination of the provision of family support services; ensure the statewide quality of family support services by providing standards and policies, monitoring the provisions of family support, providing training to persons who provide family support and establish a standardized intake process for the purpose of assessing the needs of a child and family referred for family support services.

Significant Issues

NMPED expressed concern that the bill adds language to include “intact, functional families” and “nuclear families” but does not define these terms. Other concerns of NMPED are that the legislation does not outline how parental responsibility will be enforced and which agency is re-

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sponsible for developing plans to support families as defined in Section 4. It is currently the state's responsibility to provide free, quality education in a safe learning environment

House Bill 97 relates to the family services offered by CYFD, New Mexico schools, mental health and other social services providers that focus on helping vulnerable families stay together as a functional family unit.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

This bill is consistent with CYFD performance measures relating to “front-end” prevention and early intervention services.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill is consistent with CYFD's efforts to realign financial resources to “front-end” community-based programs to address child and family issues at the earliest opportunity before intensive and costly intervention approaches are necessary. NMPED indicates that there could be a significant fiscal impact on current programs for developing and implementing activities outlined in the bill.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This bill is consistent with CYFD's efforts to expand “front-end” community-based services. According to NMPED the bill would impact the amount of time the Public Education Department (PED) staff spends on technical assistance, leadership and support for homeless education, nutrition education and the effects that drugs, alcohol and tobacco have on the student, family and community.

BD/yr